

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

November 25, 2014

Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Rob Portman (R-Ohio) introduced the *Combat Human Trafficking Act*, which would strengthen law enforcement efforts to investigate and prosecute all who commit sex trafficking crimes, particularly the buyers of sex acts from trafficking victims.

Human trafficking is a \$32 billion industry worldwide, making it the second largest criminal industry behind the drug trade. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that up to 83 percent of sex trafficking victims are American citizens, and the average victim is first trafficked between ages 12 and 14. According to the California Department of Justice, California is one of the top four destination states for trafficking victims.

The *Combat Human Trafficking Act* would increase penalties for buyers of sex acts from trafficking victims, expand reporting on trafficking prosecutions, require training by the Justice Department on targeting and prosecuting buyers, expand wiretapping authority to cover all human trafficking offenses, and strengthen crime victims' rights.

Here in California, we have strengthened state laws against sex buyers, and we must support federal efforts to raise the level of prosecution even higher. I believe that strong penalties against this disgusting practice will also reduce demand and protect the children that these criminals prey on.

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct our Washington DC advocates to support the Combat Human Trafficking Act and send a five-signature letter in support of the Act to the Los Angeles congressional delegation.

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